

COURSE OF STUDY IN THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN.

SIR.—Were I not fully confident that incalculable good will result from the matter which has hitherto appeared, and I hope will still appear, in the columns of your truly valuable journal, I should be very sparing of my remarks upon the all-important subject of design. Your correspondent's letter of the 25th ult., inserted in your journal of the 30th, contains most painful matter on the deplorable and most inefficient state of the "drawing school," called by the council "the School of Design;" and though I have no knowledge of the author (Mr. R. Burchett), yet from his letter, which has every appearance of truth, and the fair spirit therein evinced, I cannot help giving credence to it until I see it disproved. If then Mr. Burchett's statement is true, what is the council about? or what sort of informed minds on artistic matters must the majority of the members of this council have to allow such a destructive state of artistic education to take place? Surely they cannot be aware of the amount of evil that must accrue to the students' faculties for the arts, and which will be sure to take place if they are to be subjected to such an unartistic school as this so-called "School of Design" is stated to be. Those members of the council who have shewn by their works that they possess a thorough knowledge of design, should immediately investigate this painful subject, and put their shoulders to the wheel to extricate their weighty burden from its clogging difficulty, that the students may have justice done to their faculties for the arts. This should be the first step taken by those members who are strongly gifted with the varied talents of design, in order to the establishing of a sound system of artistic instruction which shall be the most effectual for training the youthful mind up to every variety of true design.

If this "School of Design" is not a school of design, the pupils have been most unjustly treated, for by their own shewing they have had a loss of three years inflicted upon them in the very prime of their life, and to young men who depend upon employment for their existence, and to obtain which without the necessary qualifications would be next to an impossibility, this is most serious; such a severity as that with which they have been visited must be painful to the greatest degree to those who depend upon their labours for their support. If, as I have said before, the pupils' statements are true, then let the members of the council look into this matter, and devise a remedy for a reparation of the injury inflicted on those pupils who have been made to suffer, and see for the future that sound instruction be imparted throughout the whole range of design, that those of our youth who intend to enter the profession of designers be made as perfect as possible. In fact, the council should no longer believe that its own "branches of instruction," as stated in its prospectus, will accomplish anything of the kind they suppose they will do. Such half or quarter measures will do more mischief than good, therefore the sooner the council applies its wisdom to a remodeling of their "branches," and adds a much greater extension of knowledge, the better; that those who wish to learn may have real knowledge imparted to them. It is most extraordinary that the council could not see when they drew up their prospectus that the meagre "branches of instruction" therein stated were quite inadequate for the purpose intended; and the smallness of the amount of instruction appears to have been imitated by the head master of the establishment, as he is made to say by Mr. Burchett, "I have prepared myself and delivered a little lecture upon them."

This surely must be a mistake upon the part of Mr. Burchett, for no head master of an artistic institution could have delivered any thing so small as a little lecture upon so important a subject, or would have caused the students to waste their time upon a little lecture, when his duty would have been to have entered deeply into the merits and demerits of the examples which were purchased for the benefit of the students. Now, as this is what a director would be sure to do for the enlightenment of his pupils, there must have been, I think, some mistake in this part of the affair. And, indeed, the black-board part is so very dark, that I cannot comprehend

how any mind should be so unenlightened as not to thank Mr. Herbert for so wise and salutary a suggestion as the black-board, it being the readiest article of communication upon all forms which the instructor is bound to convey to his pupils. I can safely say from my own experience, that it would be utterly impossible to convey information upon design or individual forms without a black-board. In teaching drawings to please papas and mamas, the black-board is very little used; but in this matter the papas and mamas are to blame; they care very little about their children's faculties for the arts being duly cultivated. Their children bring home some pretty pencil copies of lithographic prints, and the parents are satisfied. But if the black-board was used at the commencement of all artistic instruction, in all schools as well as colleges, we should have a much more enlightened set of scholars in this country than we have. But it is not yet the order of these days, though sooner or later to the black-board we must come. As much as we may painfully feel the dismissal of a highly talented artist, Mr. Herbert, for suggesting the use of a black-board, nevertheless the council will ere long see the necessity of adopting Mr. Herbert's suggestion, though it appears they dismissed him for proposing it. This is, indeed, a state of things much to be deplored, as the students' designing talents are held in abeyance, to their serious loss and the nation's injury. This is certainly not very wise legislation.

As the faculties for the arts make up a most important part of the human mind, and as legislators make laws for the benefit of mankind, I would most humbly beg to advise all who intend to enter the legislative field, to have their faculties for the arts legitimately exercised, in order to obtain a thorough understanding of all the bearings which appertain to a sound system of artistic instruction; they would then see that those faculties ought to have their due exercise as well as all the others, and they would then legislate accordingly. Had this been previously done, we should not have such a prospectus of a "Government School of Design" as we have now before us. The heading or arrangement of the classes is quite sufficient to shew that design could never spring from such puerility—"elementary and outline drawing," to begin with, then "shading from the flat," "shading from casts," "drawing from the round," and "painting from the round," and such like. Any one would suppose that this collection of flat and round elementaries were for the pretty little dears of the suburban boarding schools. How the council could have sanctioned such unmeaning expressions to explain so grand a purpose, is inconceivable. However, we will look forward to a thorough reform, and which we trust will be set about in right earnest, when we shall have a real school of design, such a one as will be worthy of this nation, and to which its youth are justly entitled.—I am, Sir, &c.,

GEO. R. LEWIS.

Upper Norton-street, Aug. 30th, 1845.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.—There will be in the St. Pancras establishment about thirty single baths, fitted up in separate rooms, with all necessary conveniences, six vapour baths, and two plunging baths of large dimensions. The washing department will be quite distinct from the baths, and suitable accommodation is to be provided. The prices will be 1d. for a private cold bath, containing sixty gallons of water; and 2d. for a warm bath containing the same quantity. The establishment in Glasshouse-street, East Smithfield, for enabling the poor in that vicinity to use gratuitously an apparatus for bathing, and for washing and drying of clothes, is in full operation. The eagerness with which its benefits were availed of, far surpassed anticipation; 987 persons having used it in the short space of nineteen evenings.

PARISH CHURCHES.—Messrs. Brandon, authors of "The Analysis of Gothic Architecture," have announced a work consisting of perspective views and plans of parish churches, with descriptive letter-press. They propose to select such churches as from their beauty of design and peculiar fitness, seem worthy of being adopted as models by those who are engaged in church building.

ON EXTERNAL APPLICATION OF FORMS TO THE DISCHARGING OUTLETS OF BUILDINGS, AS THE MEANS OF EFFECTING VENTILATION.

In remarking upon the subject of ventilation by the application of any outward formation, much has to be taken into consideration, to which, in the majority of propositions, little or no regard has been paid. It is apparent, that where one particular form or combination of forms is proposed to attain this object, and is put forward as the only means, the assumption is, that there exists at all times ready for use the power to make such surfaces or forms available. That this can be any man's belief who reflects on it is impossible, for common observation alone contradicts it; but when hardly a week elapses without some new (?) nostrum appearing as the *sine qua non*—as the remedy for this now acknowledged necessity, it does but betray that the idea has taken possession of the mind, that this power is at hand, and that we have lacked hitherto only the right application of the same. The fact is, however, that during the most calm, warm, and settled months of the year, we are the most deficient of this first requisite, without which all, and the most perfect applied forms, are mere useless material. Again, unless both the area of the exit from a building and the power used there to ventilate be carefully managed and properly proportioned, so as to produce in its progress through that building such currents as shall not be felt, ventilation will not be submitted to. The precise amount of air must be drawn in as is expelled or drawn out; and the currents which are produced by a power always varied and uncontrolled, are the several amounts of ventilation, sometimes inducing dangerous drafts, but oftentimes when wind is wanting, no ventilation at all; so it is evident we cannot expect either constancy in action, or regularity in quantity, by depending on any outwardly applied form simply and alone for its attainment. In the summer months all are ready to acknowledge the necessity for perfect ventilation, and as common sense directs, we resort to the free opening of windows, doors, &c.; and for our usual dwellings there cannot be a more rational course. The more freely this is done, the less the danger of inconvenience by drafts; for as drafts are only caused by the difference of weight in the atmosphere within and without the house, depending upon the rarefaction produced in the chimneys by fires and other similar causes, so the more free and constant such openings are, the less will be the tendency to drafts, and the more pleasant and unobserved the ventilation. But during the winter part of the year, as these facilities cannot exist, this object must be effected by other means; and in looking to the wind for this power, as being that only by which outward formations can be acted upon, we experience it at one time tempestuous, and at another powerless, but at all times varying and uncertain, while we retain the same unchanging form to receive its action,—even admitting that form to be the most proper to induce the upward current. Now, allowing this action by wind to be at times effective to create this desideratum, we require at this season the addition of warmth in conjunction with ventilation; and this it is which makes it a complex question, certainly not to be solved by any outward application, because for every quantity of vitiated air withdrawn by any acknowledged power, we require a precisely similar amount at an agreeable temperature. As an illustration how little ventilation alone could be submitted to by some classes of society, we have but to turn our attention, and reflect upon the thousands now inhabiting the east parts of this vast metropolis, who are ill-fed, ill-clad, and worse housed (daily practically illustrating Hood's Shirt dirge), and consider that this ventilation would be death more hurried;—relieving from a more insidious, to expose them to a more acute, but a not less certain destruction.

But widely different is the question when it affects large or public buildings. "The temples of religion, palaces, or theatres are exceptions to this ban: the joint process is in them attainable and comparatively simple, for air can be introduced at such temperatures as we choose and combined too with moisture, not the arid breath of the torrid zone, for we in them can imitate the climate of Madeira. To accomplish these three things are required: